

Dear members,

Tuesday night programme for the season 2018/19

Please continue to support these events and contribute to developing a strong club culture. However, please note, that the club will be a busy and slightly noisy place for some of these events. Members will be able to continue to enjoy a quiet and peaceful club on the alternative Tuesday evenings. Captains will also be able to organise, if necessary, matches on these alternative days.

I would also like to hear ideas for speakers, and of course you are free to volunteer to give us a talk.

I would be very glad to hear from you either directly, or via our president Neil Berry, on your ideas on how to create a vibrant club night.

We have observed that is that there is considerable appetite for real chess in its many forms, and also for learning either by mutual discussion or via a lecture, but there is not much appetite for variants of chess. Such variants have now been omitted from the programme as club members have voted with their feet. There is one exception i.e. odds (handicap) chess which will give an opportunity for players with differing abilities to play on a relatively level playing field.

Please note very carefully the proposed programme and put the dates into your diary.

Captains, please avoid any matches on these dates.

Date (all Tuesdays) (arrival 7:30 PM promptly for events to start at 7:45 PM and finish by 10 PM	Event
2018-19 programme	
11/9	AGM (annual general meeting)
25/9	The traditional, annual simultaneous display by the 2015/16 club champion (Raj Bhopal).
9/10	Club championship and challengers championship round 1
23/10	Can you deliver mate with bishop and knight versus the King? First, we will have a discussion on how to do this. Then, we will play this ending to see whether we can put the theory into practice. This is a very difficult ending and we need to know about it whether defending or trying to deliver mate.
6/11	Club championship and challengers championship round 2
20/11	10 seconds a move chess (ungraded). There will be an unofficial

	competition. The exact method for timing format is yet to be decided.
4/12	Club championship and challengers championship round 3
18/12	<p>Pairs blitz competition. Each round is teams of two, making alternate moves, with no conferring.</p> <p>This Christmas event will be accompanied by traditional refreshments!</p>
8/1/2019	Club championship and challengers championship round 4
22/1	<p>Odds of pawn for every hundred rating points. To promote playing between opponents of very different ratings, on a more even playing field, we will play with a handicap system. For every hundred points difference the weaker player can remove a pawn up to 700 rating points. This could be all pawns or the equivalent in pieces and pawns.</p> <p>This should be interesting for both the weaker and stronger player.</p>
5/2	Club championship and challengers championship round 5
19/2	Lecture: compiling a history of the club. In beginning the preparations for the 2022 bi-centenary of the club, we are compiling a history. We will ask one of our members who is knowledgeable about this to speak on the topic and then we will ask others to share their knowledge, including anecdotes about members and events.
5/3	Club championship and challengers championship round 6
19/3	Lecture/demonstration: we will invite one of the stronger players to demonstrate some learning from a recent major tournament e.g. the European Championships, European club Championships et cetera. The details are to be announced.
2/4	Unrated friendly Allegro competition-30 minutes per person. There will be pools of 4 players in rating order, so three games per person. This will be in preparation for the official club Allegro championship, which is now called the ECC Johnny Marr Allegro championship.
16/4	<p>Johnny Marr trophy, which was first won by Raj Bhopal and last year, as part of the official club Allegro championship, by David Sime.</p> <p>Rounds 1-3 (these games will be rated)</p>
30/4	Johnny Marr Allegro Championship rounds 4-6 (these games will be

	rated)
14/5	Club championship and challengers championship catch-up-time. Please play any outstanding games by this date so we can conclude these competitions by the end of June, when they have to be submitted for rating purposes.
28/5	Blitz competition-informal, in preparation for the club blitz championship
11/6	Club championship and challengers championship round 7 (final round)
topple18/6 (end of season event)	Club Blitz Championship. There will be a trophy, and the winner will be recorded in the annals of the history of the club. There will be seven rounds (ungraded). Can you topple the reigning champion Sergio Bermudez?